

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT:JULY5 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. JOHN GOSHKO OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTS POSSIBLE FOR-
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WARD PROGRESS IN MBFR TALKS THAT UNTIL A FEW DAYS AGO,
WERE "STUCK ON DEAD CENTER AND SEEMED TO BE GOING NOWHERE."
GOSHKO ATTRIBUTES MBFR MOVEMENT TO WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL
THAT ON THE SURFACE WOULD SEEM TO CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN
TWO SIDES. ACCORDING TO GOSHKO, CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS
VIEWING WARSAW PACT INITIATIVE AFFIRMATIVELY, BUT DISPLAYING
CAUTION, NEVERTHELESS. ACCORDING TO THE TEXT, ADMINISTRA-

TION SOURCES REPORT THAT THE NEXT STEP IS TO ANALYZE THE PROPOSALS FOR WHAT COULD BE A NUMBER OF "BOOBY TRAPS". WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL IS IN RESPONSE TO WESTERN INITIATIVE PUT FORTH IN APRIL ABSORBING MUCH OF WESTERN INITIATIVE HAVING THE EFFECT OF SETTING COMMON GROUND FORCE CEILINGS FOR BOTH SIDES. ON JUNE 30, SOVIETS ADDED ADDITIONAL POSITIVE FEATURE TO PROPOSAL STATING THAT NO COUNTRY WITH FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO REINFORCE THEM ABOVE PRESENT MANPOWER LEVELS. GOSHKO REPORTS THAT U.S. OFFICIALS, HAVE MANY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THAT MUST

STILL BE ANSWERED. AMONG QUESTIONS ARE DISCREPANCIES IN DATA SUPPLIED BY EASTERN PACT ON THEIR PRESENT LEVEL OF FORCES. TEXT STATES NEXT STEP IS FOR WEST TO PINPOINT FLAWS IN PROPOSAL AND PREPARE COUNTER OFFERS TO TAKE BACK TO VIENNA.

2. IN WASHINGTON POST OP-ED, IN REPLY TO GEORGE WILL, (POST) JUNE 4) SYDNEY DRELL, PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STATES THAT REPORT OF CTB UNVERIFIABILITY, PREVENTION OF U.S. TO CONFIRM RELIABILITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND U.S. BEING UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR COMPETENCE IN NUCLEAR-WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY ARE MISCONCEPTIONS. DRELL POINTS TO IMPROVED U.S. SEISMIC CAPABILITY AND ON-SITE INSPECTION AS REASONS TO SUPPORT U.S. VERIFICATION ABILITY. AND, ACCORDING TO DRELL, LIMITED LIFE COMPONENTS CAN BE UNCLASSIFIED

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REPLACED ASSURING WEAPONS RELIABILITY. IN ADDITION, DRELL MAINTAINS CTB WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF CONSTRAINING MODERNIZATION OF SOVIET STRATEGIC FORCES, AS WELL AS, FURTHERING GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS. CTB WE ARE NEGOTIATING WOULD ONLY LAST FIVE YEARS, AT WHICH U.S. COULD REASSESS DESIRABILITY OF EXTENDING A CTB FOR AN ADDITIONAL TERM.

3. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR EDITORIALIZES THAT U.N. SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT ACCOMPLISHED MORE THAN ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. EDITORIAL STATES THAT MOST CONCRETE ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS THE REPLACEMENT OF THE 31-MEMBER GENEVA CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT WITH AN ENLARGED DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE, WITH ROTATING CHAIRMAN. FRANCE HAS AGREED TO JOIN AND A SEAT WILL BE RESERVED FOR CHINA'S ENTRANCE AT SOME POINT. OTHER POSITIVE OUTCOMES AT SSOD INCLUDE CHINA'S PARTICIPATION FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND U.S., U.K. AND SOVIET UNION SEPARATE PLEDGES NOT TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST NON-ALIGNED, NON-NUCLEAR STATES THAT PROMISE NOT TO DEVELOP OR ACQUIRE THEM. IN ADDITION, THE COMPROMISE RESOLUTION REFLECTED NOT ONLY CONCERNS OF NON-ALIGNED TO ROLE BACK NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT

ALSO REFLECTED DANGEROUS SPREAD OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND NEED FOR NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS. EDITORIAL SUMMARIZES SUCCESS OF SSOD BY STATING THAT SESSION ADVANCED CAUSE OF DISARMAMENT THROUGH DISCUSSION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW GOALS FOR ARMS CONTROL.

4. U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT (JULY 10) SAID U.N. SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT UNDERSCORED DOMINANT ROLE OF U.S. AND SOVIET UNION IN WORLD-DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS. MUCH OF FAILURE, ACCORDING TO U.S. NEWS, RESTS WITH SUPERPOWERS WHOSE LEADERS NEGLECTED TO ATTEND SESSION. TEXT POINTS OUT INCREASE IN SOVIET-AMERICAN TENSIONS AND DECISION BY

NATO TO INCREASE THEIR CONVENTIONAL FORCES COINCIDING
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WITH SSOD. WITH CONCLUSION OF SSOD, TEXT POINTS OUT BURDEN OF DISARMAMENT RESTS WITH SUPERPOWERS. VANCE

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